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### Stamped Pottery Identified in Fergana Valley Monuments

**Rakhmanov Zafar Adilovich**

Doctor of Philosophy in Historical Sciences, (PhD) Senior Researcher, National Center of Archeology,  
Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**Alokhunov Alisher Ahmadzhonovich**

Associate Professor of the Department of World History, Doctor of Philosophy in Historical Sciences,  
(PhD) Fergana State University

#### Abstract:

Fergana Valley is one of the regions where many interesting finds have been discovered. In particular, there are unique ceramic vessels found in archeological monuments located in different parts of the valley and known to the world of science. This article presents only some of them, mainly the special marks placed on the surface of the dishes by the master or the customer, and some information about their periodic dates.

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#### Introduction

If we pay attention to the urbanization processes of the Fergana Valley, it can be observed that this phenomenon occurred at different points of the valley in different periods. Today's analysis of archaeological research illustrates that the exploitation of this territory by peasant communities was more intensively carried out in its northern, north-eastern and eastern regions. In ancient times, many large and small settlements, mansions and palaces were built and developed in these regions of Fergana.

#### Analysis of literature on the topic

The cultures named "Eilaton" and "Shorabashot" in the field of archeology operated in parallel in the north-eastern and eastern regions of the Fergana Valley [Ivanov, 1991. P. 17-20] or from the period of

mixing [Abdullaev, 2016. P. 27] in the intermediate oasis of Andijonsoy and Shahrikhonsoy, a settlement called Koshtepa II among the local population appeared [Abdullaev, 2016.P. 27-30].

Koshtepa II archaeological monument is located in the village of Karasuv, Kurgantepa district, Andijan region, and it was dated to the early Middle Ages based on the surface classification and lifting materials in the initial study period [Abdulgazieva, 1988. S . 47].

### **Research methodology**

Analysis and synthesis, as well as comparative, statistical and induction methods were used in this research work.

### **Analysis and results**

During the 2015 field research season, three parts of the Koshtepa II monument were excavated. The 3rd excavation was carried out in the north-eastern corner of the monument in an area of 8x5 m, where B.M. Abdullayev, Z.O. Rakhmanov, A.A. Aloxhunov participated [Abdullaev and dr., 2018. P. 11-12]. As a result, a part of the potter's house of the VII-VIII centuries was opened and studied [Abdullaev and dr., 2018. P. 12]. Unfortunately, this excavation could not be continued later due to various reasons. One of the “branded pottery” that we raised as a small research topic was discovered during these excavations.

After clearing the upper layer in the 3rd excavation site, it was observed that there was a big fire as a result of life-death battles that took place in the early Middle Ages. The pillars burned down to their foundations and destroyed the entire place. It was found that many pillars were preserved in the opened area, and among the ruins were charred beams. In the course of cleaning, the damaged part of the upper chamber of the humdon was found in the southern part of the 3rd excavation site. At a distance of 1 m from it to the south, fragments of a water jug, which was made not long ago, were found in one place as a result of being covered by the roof. During the restoration, a special stamp in the form of “x” “+” was placed in the transition from the neck to the abdomen (Fig. 1. 1), accordingly, it was suggested that this item was most likely “made to order”.

It should be noted that in the territory of Central Asia, the custom of putting such a mark on dishes, that is, pottery, dates back to ancient times. For instance, in the territory of Sogd, the oldest vessels with a unique mark can be found in the Koktepa and Afrosiyob monuments of the 10th-8th, 7th-4th centuries BC [Isamiddinov, 2002. P. 165. Ris. 156].

In addition, marked vessels with the appearance of “x , +” are found in the Koktepa and Afrosiyab monuments in the pottery complex dated to the III-II centuries BC and II-III centuries AD (Fig. 1. 14-16) also determined [Isamiddinov, 2002. P. 165.Fig. 156].

Needless to say, such marked jugs were found in other regions of the Fergana Valley (Fig. 1. 2-13) [Litvinsky, 1973. P. 80-93. fig. 83. 13, fig. 98. 17; Kudratov, 1992. P. 201. fig. 19. 13; Matboboev, 2009. P. 549. Fig. 150. 11, 12], there are no definitive opinions on the issue of their era. From this point of view, it is necessary to mention some opinions on this matter. For example, it can be said that in the Fergana Valley, the tradition of showing originality in the production of ceramic dishes, jugs, pots, or similar products, or marking the product's relevance, dates back to the beginning of the first century AD. This includes a jug without a handle (Fig. 1. 2) found in various regions of the Fergana Valley, more precisely from the Vorukh ravine in the southwestern region (in the territory of Northern

Tajikistan) [Litvinsky, 1973. P. 199. Tabl. 22. 8], jugs without handles found in the Karabulok cemetery (Fig. 1. 3, 6) [Litvinsky, 1973. P. 200. Table. 36. 5-6] and small jugs (Fig. 1. 4, 7) identified from burial mound No. 3 of the cemetery called Simab (written as “СЫМАП” in Russian - Z.R) of Ferghana [ Litvinsky, 1973. P. 200. Table. 37. 1-2] can be given as an example.

In Y.D. Baruzdin and G.A.Brikina's books on the archaeological monuments of Laylak and Botken, there is a hand-made jug with a cross-shaped mark in the form of “x” on the neck in burial mound 23 of Toratash cemetery, dated to BC and the beginning of AD (Fig. 1. 10) was determined [Baruzdin, Brykina, 1962. P. 30-31. Table. VI. 2]. The height of the jug is 25.5 cm, the diameter is 24 cm, the diameter of the mouth is 9.5 cm, the diameter of the base is 12 cm.

Besides, in V.F.Gaidukevich's researches in burial mounds near Shirinsoy, a date with a cross-shaped mark in the form of “x” on the neck (Fig. 1. 9) (potty) dating back to the III-IV centuries AD [Gaidukevich] , 1952. S. 338, Ris. 7.4; S. 340], one bowl with a mark in the form of “+” on the shoulder (Fig. 1. 8) dating back to the IV-V centuries AD was also identified from the Kuyuktepa monument in Northern Fergana [Kudratov, 1992. P. 201. fig. 19. 13]. Of course, various vessels with such a mark were found in the Mingtepa monument located in the center of Marhamat district of Andijan region (excavation materials R-1 conducted under the leadership of B. Matboboyev and M. Isomiddinov). We think that these findings will become known to the world of science in further research.

Taking into account that branding was widespread during the Turkic khanate [Matbabaev, 2009. P. 89-93; Abdullaev, 2016. P. 30], allows us to put forward the opinion that the traces of the fire that took place in the area where the pottery workshop of the Koshtepa II monument is located, may have occurred during the Arab invasion.

In addition to this, in front of the khumdon, raw jars taken from the distaff for cooking and wide couches built for ready-made products have been preserved. Wheat threshing mats of various sizes were found in almost all the excavation sites. Perhaps it is not surprising that these stone tools were used not only for threshing wheat, but also for grinding various colored minerals to decorate pottery. Only then would it be possible to explain the discovery of so many stone tools in a small part of the pottery field. However, these predictions can be confirmed only after the scientific conclusions of stone weapon experts - trassologists.

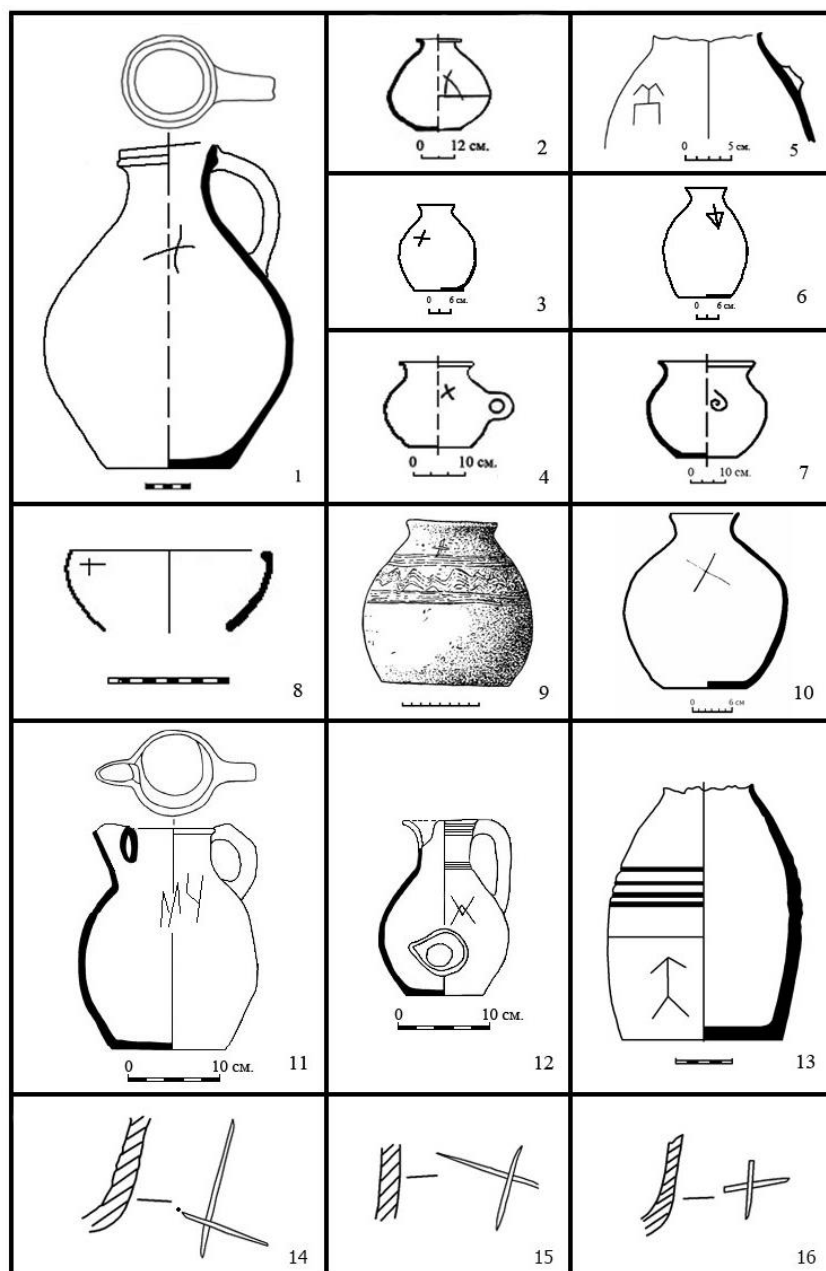
It is natural that the craftsman industry, which was of great importance in the economy of that time, flourished in front of the fortress center - the castle. We believe that in further researches, other crafts or places related to certain activities will be opened and presented to the world of science and the general public.

## Conclusions and suggestions

In conclusion, it can be said that the jar with a mark of the early Middle Ages found in the artisans' places of the monument of Koshtepa II is also found in other monuments of the Fergana Valley. The fact that they belong to the period of the Turkish Khaganate, in particular, indicates the prevalence of special schools of crafts, as well as families of large masters engaged in pottery.

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Расм. 1. Тамғали идишлар тўплами